have been largely achieved. In addition to the arrangements made earlier by OMCs to import 642 TMT of LPG during the period October—December 2005, arrangements have been made to import an additional quantity of 237.9 TMT during this period, 138 TMT of which has already reached the country. Thus, the overall physical shortage in the country at present has been reduced to only about 1.5% of the average monthly consumption of LPG. However, the backlog at the micro-level may vary from market to market on account of operational reasons.

The production of LPG in RIL's refinery has been restored from 1st December, 2005 and the supply situation is expected to substantively improve and normalize in the coming few weeks.

While OMCs are striving to ensure supplies to distributors in accordance with the registered customer strength of the distributor, the active cooperatation of State Governments is required to cap, reduce and eventually eliminate the diversion of domestic LPG to the black market and unauthorized use which takes place on account of the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG. The Union Government in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has alerted State Governments to the imperative need to curtail diversion and other malpractices by enforcing the control orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. OMCs have also been directed to ensure adherence to marketing Discipline Guideline, 2001.

Price of ATF

†1476. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) have been reduced in the beginning of the month of November, 2005 due to fall in the prices of crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the percentage of the prices reduced; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons for reducing the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reduced the domestic prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by around 1.8% in view of the fall in international prices.

(c) Government neither raises, maintains or reduces ATF prices. These are commercial decisions taken by oil marketing companies in the light of prevailing market conditions.

Hydrocarbon Vision-2025

1477. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to meet skilled human resource requirements in view of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are also planning to set up institutes to train the engineers and professionals to meet specific requirements of the oil sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also planning to set up advance R & D facilities to meet the future requirements if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government will seek partnership with the private sectors and other strategic partners in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the existing training institutes established by oil sector PSUs, there is a proposal under examination to set up an institute of national importance to train manpower required for the upstream and downstream sectors in the field of petroleum technology.